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1 SANDRA R. BROWN  
2 Acting United States Attorney  
3 LAWRENCE S. MIDDLETON  
4 Assistant United States Attorney  
5 Chief, Criminal Division  
6 DENNISE D. WILLETT  
7 Assistant United States Attorney  
8 Chief, Santa Ana Branch Office  
9 SCOTT D. TENLEY (Cal. Bar No. 298911)  
10 Assistant United States Attorney  
11 8000 United States Courthouse  
12 411 West Fourth Street  
13 Santa Ana, California 92701  
14 Telephone: (714) 338-2829  
15 Facsimile: (714) 338-3561  
16 E-mail: scott.tenley@usdoj.gov

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U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SANTA ANA

17 Attorneys for Plaintiff  
18 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

19 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

20 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

21 SOUTHERN DIVISION

22 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

23 SACR17-00043  
No. SA CR 17-

24 Plaintiff,

25 v.  
PLEA AGREEMENT FOR DEFENDANT  
ELIZABETH JANE MULDER

ELIZABETH JANE MULDER,  
aka "Lizzie,"

Defendant.

1. This constitutes the plea agreement between ELIZABETH JANE MULDER ("defendant") and the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California (the "USAO") in the above-captioned case. This agreement is limited to the USAO and cannot bind any other federal, state, local, or foreign prosecuting, enforcement, administrative, or regulatory authorities.

DEFENDANT'S OBLIGATIONS

2. Defendant agrees to:

1               a. Give up the right to indictment by a grand jury and,  
2 at the earliest opportunity requested by the USAO and provided by the  
3 Court, appear and plead guilty to a two-count information in the form  
4 attached to this agreement as Exhibit A or a substantially similar  
5 form, which charges defendant with wire fraud in violation of 18  
6 U.S.C. § 1343, and making and subscribing to a false tax return, in  
7 violation of 26 U.S.C. § 7206(1).

8               b. Not contest facts agreed to in this agreement.

9               c. Abide by all agreements regarding sentencing contained  
10 in this agreement.

11               d. Appear for all court appearances, surrender as ordered  
12 for service of sentence, obey all conditions of any bond, and obey  
13 any other ongoing court order in this matter.

14               e. Not commit any crime; however, offenses that would be  
15 excluded for sentencing purposes under United States Sentencing  
16 Guidelines ("U.S.S.G." or "Sentencing Guidelines") § 4A1.2(c) are not  
17 within the scope of this agreement.

18               f. Be truthful at all times with Pretrial Services, the  
19 United States Probation Office, and the Court.

20               g. Pay the applicable special assessments at or before  
21 the time of sentencing unless defendant lacks the ability to pay and  
22 prior to sentencing submits a completed financial statement on a form  
23 to be provided by the USAO.

24               3. Defendant further agrees:

25               a. Truthfully to disclose to law enforcement officials,  
26 at a date and time to be set by the USAO, the location of,  
27 defendant's ownership interest in, and all other information known to  
28 defendant about, all monies, properties, and/or assets of any kind,

1 derived from or acquired as a result of, or used to facilitate the  
2 commission of, defendant's illegal activities, and to forfeit all  
3 right, title, and interest in and to such items.

4 b. To the Court's entry of an order of forfeiture at or  
5 before sentencing with respect to these assets and to the forfeiture  
6 of the assets.

7 c. To take whatever steps are necessary to pass to the  
8 United States clear title to the assets described above, including,  
9 without limitation, the execution of a consent decree of forfeiture  
10 and the completing of any other legal documents required for the  
11 transfer of title to the United States.

12 d. With respect to any criminal forfeiture ordered as a  
13 result of this plea agreement, defendant waives the requirements of  
14 Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 32.2 and 43(a) regarding notice  
15 of the forfeiture in the charging instrument, announcements of the  
16 forfeiture sentencing, and incorporation of the forfeiture in the  
17 judgment. Defendant acknowledges that forfeiture of the assets is  
18 part of the sentence that may be imposed in this case and waives any  
19 failure by the Court to advise defendant of this, pursuant to Federal  
20 Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(b)(1)(J), at the time the Court accepts  
21 defendant's guilty pleas.

22 e. Not to assist any other individual in any effort  
23 falsely to contest the forfeiture of the assets described above.

24 f. Not to claim that reasonable cause to seize the assets  
25 was lacking.

26 g. To prevent the transfer, sale, destruction, or loss of  
27 any and all assets described above to the extent defendant has the  
28 ability to do so.

1                   h. To fill out and deliver to the USAO a completed  
2 financial statement listing defendant's assets on a form provided by  
3 the USAO.

4                  4. Defendant admits that defendant received \$343,496.86 of  
5 unreported income for tax year 2015. Defendant further agrees to  
6 cooperate with the Internal Revenue Service in the determination of  
7 defendant's tax liability for calendar years 2011 through 2015.

8 Defendant agrees that:

9                   a. Defendant will file, prior to the time of sentencing,  
10 amended returns for the years subject to the above admissions,  
11 correctly reporting unreported income; will, if requested to do so by  
12 the Internal Revenue Service, provide the Internal Revenue Service  
13 with information regarding the years covered by the returns; will, in  
14 good faith, attempt to pay at or before sentencing all additional  
15 taxes and all penalties and interest assessed by the Internal Revenue  
16 Service on the basis of the returns; and will, in good faith, attempt  
17 to promptly pay all additional taxes and all penalties and interest  
18 thereafter determined by the Internal Revenue Service to be owing as  
19 a result of any computational error(s).

20                  b. Nothing in this agreement forecloses or limits the  
21 ability of the Internal Revenue Service to examine and make  
22 adjustments to defendant's returns after they are filed.

23                  c. Defendant will not, after filing the returns, file any  
24 claim for refund of taxes, penalties, or interest for amounts  
25 attributable to the returns filed in connection with this plea  
26 agreement.

27

28

1                   d. Defendant is liable for the fraud penalty imposed by  
2 the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 6663, on the understatement of  
3 tax liability for tax years 2011-2015.

4 e. Defendant gives up any and all objections that could  
5 be asserted to the Examination Division of the Internal Revenue  
6 Service receiving materials or information obtained during the  
7 criminal investigation of this matter, including materials and  
8 information obtained through grand jury subpoenas.

9 f. Defendant will sign closing agreements with the  
10 Internal Revenue Service contemporaneously with the signing of this  
11 plea agreement, permitting the Internal Revenue Service to assess and  
12 collect the total sum of \$128,791 for tax year 2015, which comprises  
13 the tax liabilities, as well as assess and collect the civil fraud  
14 penalty for each year and statutory interest, on the tax liabilities,  
15 as provided by law.

## THE USAO'S OBLIGATIONS

5. The USAO agrees to:

a. Not contest facts agreed to in this agreement.

b. Abide by all agreements regarding sentencing contained in this agreement.

21 c. At the time of sentencing, provided that defendant  
22 demonstrates an acceptance of responsibility for the offenses up to  
23 and including the time of sentencing, recommend a two-level reduction  
24 in the applicable Sentencing Guidelines offense level, pursuant to  
25 U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1, and recommend and, if necessary, move for an  
26 additional one-level reduction if available under that section.

27                   d. Except for criminal tax violations (including  
28 conspiracy to commit such violations chargeable under 18 U.S.C. §

1 371), not further criminally prosecute defendant for federal crimes  
2 arising out of defendant's conduct described in the agreed-to factual  
3 basis set forth in paragraph 17 below, including charges under 18  
4 U.S.C. § 1029 and 18 U.S.C. § 1028A(a)(1). Defendant understands  
5 that the USAO is free to criminally prosecute defendant for any other  
6 unlawful past conduct or any unlawful conduct that occurs after the  
7 date of this agreement. Defendant agrees that at the time of  
8 sentencing the Court may consider the uncharged conduct in  
9 determining the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range, the propriety  
10 and extent of any departure from that range, and the sentence to be  
11 imposed after consideration of the Sentencing Guidelines and all  
12 other relevant factors under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).

13                   e.     Recommend that defendant be sentenced to a term of  
14 imprisonment no higher than the low end of the applicable Sentencing  
15 Guidelines range, provided that the offense level used by the Court  
16 to determine that range is 26 or higher and provided that the Court  
17 does not depart downward in offense level. For purposes of this  
18 agreement, the low end of the Sentencing Guidelines range is that  
19 defined by the Sentencing Table in U.S.S.G. Chapter 5, Part A,  
20 without regard to reductions in the term of imprisonment that may be  
21 permissible through the substitution of community confinement or home  
22 detention as a result of the offense level falling within Zone B or  
23 Zone C of the Sentencing Table.

## NATURE OF THE OFFENSES

25       6. Defendant understands that for defendant to be guilty of  
26 the crime charged in count one, that is, wire fraud, in violation of  
27 Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343, the following must be  
28 true: (1) the defendant knowingly devised, participated in, or

1 executed a scheme or plan to defraud, or a scheme or plan for  
2 obtaining money or property by means of false or fraudulent  
3 pretenses, representations, or promises; (2) the statements made or  
4 facts omitted as part of the scheme were material -- that is, they  
5 had a natural tendency to influence, or were capable of influencing,  
6 a person to part with money or property; (3) the defendant acted with  
7 the intent to defraud -- that is, the intent to deceive or cheat; and  
8 (4) the defendant used, or caused to be used, an interstate wire to  
9 carry out or to attempt to carry out an essential part the scheme.

10       7. Defendant understands that for defendant to be guilty of  
11 the crime charged in count two, that is, making and subscribing to a  
12 false tax return, in violation of Title 26, United States Code,  
13 Section 7206(1), the following must be true: (1) defendant made and  
14 signed a tax return for the year 2015 that defendant knew contained  
15 false information as to a material matter; (2) the return contained a  
16 written declaration that it was being signed subject to the penalties  
17 or perjury; and (3) in filing the false tax return, defendant acted  
18 willfully. In order to prove that the defendant acted "willfully,"  
19 the government must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the  
20 defendant knew federal tax law imposed a duty on her, and the  
21 defendant intentionally and voluntarily violated that duty.

## PENALTIES AND RESTITUTION

23       8. Defendant understands that the statutory maximum sentence  
24 that the Court can impose for a violation of Title 18, United States  
25 Code, Section 1343, is: 20 years' imprisonment; a 3-year period of  
26 supervised release; a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or  
27 gross loss resulting from the offense, whichever is greatest; and a  
28 mandatory special assessment of \$100.

1       9. Defendant understands that the statutory maximum sentence  
2 that the Court can impose for violating Title 26, United States Code,  
3 Section 7206(1), is: 3 years' imprisonment; a one-year period of  
4 supervised release; a fine of \$100,000; and a mandatory special  
5 assessment of \$100.

6       10. Defendant understands, therefore, that the total maximum  
7 sentence for all offenses to which defendant is pleading guilty is:  
8 23 years' imprisonment; a three-year period of supervised release; a  
9 fine of \$350,000 or twice the gross gain or gross loss resulting from  
10 the offenses, whichever is greatest; and a mandatory special  
11 assessment of \$200.

12      11. Defendant understands that defendant will be required to  
13 pay full restitution to the victims of the offense to which defendant  
14 is pleading guilty. Defendant agrees that, in return for the USAO's  
15 compliance with its obligations under this agreement, the Court may  
16 order restitution to persons other than the victim of the offense to  
17 which defendant is pleading guilty and in amounts greater than those  
18 alleged in the count to which defendant is pleading guilty. In  
19 particular, defendant agrees that the Court may order restitution to  
20 any victim of any of the following for any losses suffered by that  
21 victim as a result: (a) any relevant conduct, as defined in U.S.S.G.  
22 § 1B1.3, in connection with the offenses to which defendant is  
23 pleading guilty; and (b) any counts dismissed pursuant to this  
24 agreement as well as all relevant conduct, as defined in U.S.S.G.  
25 § 1B1.3, in connection with those counts and charges. The parties  
26 currently believe that the approximate applicable amount of  
27 restitution associated with defendant's wire fraud scheme is  
28 \$1,538,771.12, but recognize and agree that this amount could change

1 based on facts that come to the attention of the parties prior to  
2 sentencing.

3       12. Defendant understands and agrees that the Court: (a) may  
4 order defendant to pay restitution in the form of any additional  
5 taxes, interest, and penalties that defendant owes to the United  
6 States based upon the count of conviction and any relevant conduct;  
7 and (b) must order defendant to pay the costs of prosecution, which  
8 may be in addition to the statutory maximum fine stated above.

9           a. The amount of restitution resulting from defendant's  
10 making and subscribing to false tax returns for the years 2011 to  
11 2015 is \$51,365 for 2011, \$101,029 for 2012, \$129,431 for 2013,  
12 \$115,318 for 2014, and \$128,791 for 2015.

13       13. Defendant agrees that restitution is due and payable  
14 immediately after the judgment is entered and is subject to immediate  
15 enforcement, in full, by the United States. If the Court imposes a  
16 schedule of payments, defendant agrees that the schedule of payments  
17 is a schedule of the minimum payment due, and that the payment  
18 schedule does not prohibit or limit the methods by which the United  
19 States may immediately enforce the judgment in full.

20       14. If the Court orders the defendant to pay restitution to the  
21 IRS for the failure to pay tax, either directly as part of the  
22 sentence or as a condition of supervised release or probation, the  
23 IRS will use the restitution order as the basis for a civil  
24 assessment. See 26 U.S.C. §6201(a)(4). The defendant does not have  
25 the right to challenge the amount of this restitution-based  
26 assessment. See 26 U.S.C. §6201(a)(4)(C). Neither the existence of  
27 a restitution payment schedule nor the defendant's timely payment of  
28 restitution according to that schedule will preclude the IRS from

1 immediately collecting the full amount of the restitution-based  
2 assessment, including by levy and distraint under 26 U.S.C. §6331.  
3 Interest on the restitution-based assessment will accrue under 26  
4 U.S.C. §§ 6601 and 6621 from the last date prescribed for payment of  
5 the liability that is the subject of the restitution order to the  
6 date that the IRS receives payment.

7 15. Defendant agrees not to file any claim for refund of taxes,  
8 or penalties represented by an amount of restitution paid pursuant to  
9 this agreement.

10 16. Defendant agrees that this agreement, or any judgment,  
11 order, release, or satisfaction issued in connection with this  
12 agreement, will not satisfy, settle, or compromise the defendant's  
13 obligation to pay the balance of any remaining civil liabilities,  
14 including tax, additional tax, additions to tax, interest, and  
15 penalties, owed to the IRS for the time period(s) covered by this  
16 agreement or for any other time period.

17 17. Defendant understands that supervised release is a period  
18 of time following imprisonment during which defendant will be subject  
19 to various restrictions and requirements. Defendant understands that  
20 if defendant violates one or more of the conditions of any supervised  
21 release imposed, defendant may be returned to prison for all or part  
22 of the term of supervised release authorized by statute for the  
23 offense that resulted in the term of supervised release, which could  
24 result in defendant serving a total term of imprisonment greater than  
25 the statutory maximum stated above.

26 18. Defendant understands that, by pleading guilty, defendant  
27 may be giving up valuable government benefits and valuable civic  
28 rights, such as the right to vote, the right to possess a firearm,

1 the right to hold office, and the right to serve on a jury.  
2 Defendant understands that once the court accepts defendant's guilty  
3 plea, it will be a federal felony for defendant to possess a firearm  
4 or ammunition. Defendant understands that the conviction in this  
5 case may also subject defendant to various other collateral  
6 consequences, including but not limited to revocation of probation,  
7 parole, or supervised release in another case and suspension or  
8 revocation of a professional license. Defendant understands that  
9 unanticipated collateral consequences will not serve as grounds to  
10 withdraw defendant's guilty plea.

11        19. Defendant understands that, if defendant is not a United  
12 States citizen, the felony conviction in this case may subject  
13 defendant to: removal, also known as deportation, which may, under  
14 some circumstances, be mandatory; denial of citizenship; and denial  
15 of admission to the United States in the future. The court cannot,  
16 and defendant's attorney also may not be able to, advise defendant  
17 fully regarding the immigration consequences of the felony conviction  
18 in this case. Defendant understands that unexpected immigration  
19 consequences will not serve as grounds to withdraw defendant's guilty  
20 plea.

## FACTUAL BASIS

22        20. Defendant admits that defendant is, in fact, guilty of the  
23 offenses to which defendant is agreeing to plead guilty. Defendant  
24 and the USAO agree to the statement of facts provided below and agree  
25 that this statement of facts is sufficient to support pleas of guilty  
26 to the charges described in this agreement and to establish the  
27 Sentencing Guidelines factors set forth in paragraph 17 below but is  
28 not meant to be a complete recitation of all facts relevant to the

1 underlying criminal conduct or all facts known to either party that  
2 relate to that conduct.

3 Defendant, a resident of Orange County, provides financial  
4 consulting services to small business and individuals, including  
5 accounting, tax, and bookkeeping services. Defendant provides these  
6 services through Mulder Financial Consulting ("Mulder Financial"), a  
7 consulting company under defendant's control. Defendant and her  
8 husband maintain a bank account at Bank of America, account number  
9 xxxxx-x1906. In addition to the Mulder Financial account, defendant  
10 and her husband, Jesse Mulder, control a Bank of America account,  
11 account number xxxxx-x8120, under the name Mulder Financial and  
12 Consulting, d/b/a Income Tax Payments (the "Income Tax Payments  
13 account").

14 Beginning no later than in or around July 2009, and continuing  
15 to at least in or around May 2016, defendant knowingly and with the  
16 intent to defraud, devised and executed a scheme to defraud and  
17 obtain money from her clients by means of materially false and  
18 fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, and the  
19 concealment of material facts.

20 To conduct her fraudulent scheme, defendant gained the trust of  
21 small businesses and other clients, which in turn allowed her to  
22 obtain control or access to financial accounts and/or checking  
23 documents of her clients. Using a variety of fraudulent pretenses,  
24 including deceiving clients into making checks payable to defendant's  
25 Income Tax Payment account under the belief that the funds would be  
26 used to satisfy the clients' legitimate tax obligations, defendant  
27 obtained, fraudulently and without authorization, over \$1.5 million  
28

1 from her victims. Defendant used her special skills and training in  
2 accounting procedures to perpetrate, and then to conceal, her fraud.

3       **A. JAC Wines**

4       In or around 2009, defendant began performing bookkeeping  
5 services for JAC Wines, a start-up wine distributor based in San  
6 Clemente, California, owned and operated by J.A. In May 2012,  
7 defendant and J.A. agreed that if defendant caused JAC Wines to be  
8 acquired by an investor, defendant would be compensated one-half of  
9 the proceeds of the sale.

10      In late 2012/early 2013, J.A. became unable to manage day-to-day  
11 financial operations of JAC Wines on account of a serious personal  
12 and medical hardship. Knowing J.A. was particularly susceptible to  
13 her fraudulent scheme on account of his medical treatment, defendant  
14 sought and obtained power of attorney over JAC Wines financial  
15 accounts. After gaining control over JAC Wines' accounts, defendant  
16 created fraudulent invoices and expenses in order to cause J.A. to  
17 invest capital into JAC Wines to pay the purported expenses. After  
18 J.A. deposited funds into JAC Wines' account, defendant transferred  
19 the money to the Mulder Financial account and converted the money for  
20 her own use. Defendant then provided J.A. fictitious receipts or  
21 email messages to show that the purported expense had been paid.

22      To perpetuate her scheme, defendant made material  
23 misrepresentations designed to lead J.A. to believe that legitimate  
24 investors were considering acquiring JAC Wines. In particular,  
25 defendant created the fictitious persona "Brent Harrison," who  
26 purported to be a representative of the Wine Trust, a company that  
27 introduces investors to fine wine. Defendant also created the  
28 fictitious persona "Jung Siam," who purported to be a Chinese

1 investor introduced to JAC Wines by "Harrison." By creating  
2 fraudulent email communications between and among defendant, J.A.,  
3 "Harrison," and "Siam," defendant led J.A. to believe that the  
4 marketing and other expenses J.A. paid were benefiting JAC Wines and  
5 furthering a potential acquisition of JAC Wines. In fact, as  
6 defendant well knew, JAC Wines was not being considered as an  
7 acquisition target.

8 In total, defendant converted approximately \$185,504.11 from JAC  
9 Wines for her own use by, among other means, paying checks from JAC  
10 Wines to the Mulder Financial account

11       **B.     Kurtz-Ahlers & Associates**

12       Beginning in November 2009, defendant performed part-time  
13 bookkeeping services at the rate of \$700 per month for Kurtz-Ahlers\*  
14 Associates ("K-A & Assoc."), a luxury travel agency based in San Juan  
15 Capistrano operated by J.K. ("J.K.").

16       Between 2011 and 2016, defendant drafted forty-four checks from  
17 the K-A & Assoc. bank account made payable to "Income Tax Payments,"  
18 the same name as the d/b/a account controlled by defendant. When  
19 seeking J.K.'s endorsement on the checks, defendant did not disclose  
20 that she operated a d/b/a called "Income Tax Payments" or that  
21 defendant planned to deposit the checks into an account under  
22 defendant's control. Instead, defendant represented to J.K. that the  
23 Income Tax Payments checks were payments for outstanding tax  
24 liabilities and would be forwarded to the appropriate federal, state,  
25 or local tax authority. Defendant made fraudulent notations on the  
memo lines of some checks to further deceive J.K. into believing the  
checks would be used to satisfy specific tax liabilities. Defendant  
then deposited these checks into her Income Tax Payments account, and

1 converted the funds for her own personal use, without authorization  
2 from J.K. or K-A & Assoc.

3 In addition to the Income Tax Payments scheme, defendant also  
4 fraudulently transferred money from K-A & Assoc.'s bank account to  
5 accounts under defendant's control. For example, via wire transfer  
6 on December 29, 2011, defendant transferred \$30,000 from K-A & Assoc.  
7 to the Mulder Financial account ending in -x8120. Defendant also  
8 wrote checks without authorization from K-A & Assoc. directly to  
9 Mulder Financial which defendant deposited in Mulder Financial's bank  
10 account, ending in -x8120. This included a \$5,000 check dated August  
11 22, 2014 drawn from K-A & Assoc.'s Bank of America account in  
12 California ending in -x6285, which defendant deposited into her  
13 Mulder Financial account in California. In order for the transfer of  
14 funds to have been effectuated from the K-A & Assoc. account to the  
15 Mulder Financial account, a wire transmission was sent through Bank  
16 of America servers in Richmond, Virginia, which was reasonably  
17 foreseeable to defendant.

18 Defendant also used the fictitious "Harrison" persona to conceal  
19 her scheme from K-A & Assoc. and J.K. For example, when confronted  
20 about the \$5,000 check described above, defendant claimed the amount  
21 was in error, and sent K-A & Assoc. an email from "Harrison"  
22 confirming that the \$5,000 debit was in error and purporting to stop  
23 payment on the check. In reality, the check was never stopped, and  
24 the \$5,000 payment was deposited without authorization into the  
25 Mulder Financial account.

26 Between January 2011 and May 2016, defendant converted without  
27 authorization approximately \$777,604.73 from K-A & Assoc. to bank  
28

1 accounts under the control of defendant and/or her husband, and  
2 converted those funds for defendant's personal use.

3       **C. Toni & Guy Hair Salon Franchise**

4       Between approximately 2014 and 2016, defendant provided tax and  
5 bookkeeping services to a Newport Beach-based franchise of Toni & Guy  
6 Hair Salon (GTLF LLC Toni & Guy) ("Toni & Guy"). Toni & Guy provided  
7 free services to defendant and her family in exchange for defendant's  
8 work. Through the identical Income Tax Payments scheme described  
9 above, defendant converted for her own use approximately \$291,286.15  
10 from Toni & Guy. Defendant also used the fictitious "Harrison"  
11 persona in furtherance of her fraud -- this time purporting to be a  
12 former customer who decided to purchase services from the salon after  
13 visiting with defendant and obtaining defendant's recommendation.

14       Defendant's embezzlement caused substantial financial hardship  
15 to Toni & Guy and its owners L.S. and G.T. Because of outstanding  
16 tax liabilities and many other unpaid debts caused by defendant, Toni  
17 & Guy became insolvent. L.S. and G.T. were forced to take out a  
18 number of loans, including from family members, in order to attempt  
19 to keep the business afloat. L.S. and G.T.'s personal credit have  
20 been substantially damaged as a result of the high debt associated  
21 with Toni & Guy.

22       **D. Other Victims**

23       In addition to the monies embezzled from JAC Wines, K-A &  
24 Assoc.; and Toni & Guy, defendant stole money from the following  
25 additional victims:

26       From Bella Pilates, an exercise studio in San Clemente,  
27 California operated by L.K., defendant embezzled approximately  
28 \$201,998.46. Defendant did so largely through the Income Tax

1 Payments scheme described above. In addition, defendant used Bella  
2 Pilates' American Express account without authorization to pay  
3 personal expenses. Defendant also opened, without authorization, a  
4 line of credit in the name of Bella Pilates through Merchant Capital  
5 LLC, from which defendant received cash advances.

6 From Andra Builders, Inc., a building contractor located in  
7 Costa Mesa, California, defendant embezzled approximately \$59,887.76.  
8 Defendant did so largely through the Income Tax Payments scheme  
9 described above.

10 From California Print to Copy, a copy shop located in Irvine,  
11 California, defendant embezzled approximately \$22,500. Defendant did  
12 so largely through the Income Tax Payments scheme described above.

13 \* \* \*

14 In total, defendant's fraudulent scheme resulted in her theft of  
15 approximately \$1,538,771.12 from JAC Wines, K-A & Assoc., Toni & Guy,  
16 Bella Pilates, Andra Builders, Inc., and California Print to Copy.  
17 Defendant used the money obtained from her fraudulent scheme for a  
18 variety of personal and luxury expenses, including a rental home in  
19 Laguna Beach, California, cosmetic surgery, personal vacations,  
20 living expenses, horse rentals, and the purchase of horse equipment.

21 **E. False Tax Returns**

22 Between 2011 and 2016, defendant knowingly and willfully signed  
23 and filed false tax returns that did not report income defendant had  
24 received from her fraudulent conduct. For example, on or around May  
25 21, 2016, defendant knowingly and willfully signed, and on May 22,  
26 2016 filed, under penalty of perjury, an IRS Form 1040 which reported  
27 that the total income of defendant and her husband, Jesse Mulder, was  
28 \$76,920, when in fact, as defendant knew, her true joint income was

1 substantially higher. Defendant's true joint income for tax year  
2 2013 was \$420,416.86, which included \$343,496.86 obtained as a result  
3 of her fraudulent scheme.

4 SENTENCING FACTORS

5 21. Defendant understands that in determining defendant's  
6 sentence the Court is required to calculate the applicable Sentencing  
7 Guidelines range and to consider that range, possible departures  
8 under the Sentencing Guidelines, and the other sentencing factors set  
9 forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). Defendant understands that the  
10 Sentencing Guidelines are advisory only, that defendant cannot have  
11 any expectation of receiving a sentence within the calculated  
12 Sentencing Guidelines range, and that after considering the  
13 Sentencing Guidelines and the other § 3553(a) factors, the Court will  
14 be free to exercise its discretion to impose any sentence it finds  
15 appropriate up to the maximum set by statute for the crimes of  
16 conviction.

17 22. Defendant and the USAO agree to the following applicable  
18 Sentencing Guidelines factors as to Count One:

19 Base Offense Level: 7 [U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1(a)(1)]

20 Loss greater than \$1.5 million: +16 [U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1(b)(1)(I)]

21 Substantial financial hardship: +2 [U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1(b)(2)(A)(iii)]

22 Vulnerable victim: +2 [U.S.S.G. § 3A1.1(b)(1)]

23 Special skill: +2 [U.S.S.G. § 3B1.3]

24 Defendant and the USAO reserve the right to argue that additional  
25 specific offense characteristics, adjustments, and departures under  
26 the Sentencing Guidelines are appropriate. Defendant understands  
27

28

1 that there is no agreement as to defendant's criminal history or  
2 criminal history category.

3       23. Defendant and the USAO reserve the right to argue for a  
4 sentence outside the sentencing range established by the Sentencing  
5 Guidelines based on the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(1),  
6 (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(6), and (a)(7).

## WAIVER OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

8       24. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty, defendant  
9 gives up the following rights:

- a. The right to persist in a plea of not guilty.
  - b. The right to a speedy and public trial by jury.
  - c. The right to be represented by counsel -- and if  
have the court appoint counsel -- at trial. Defendant  
says, however, that, defendant retains the right to be  
represented by counsel -- and if necessary have the court appoint  
counsel -- at every other stage of the proceeding.

17                   d. The right to be presumed innocent and to have the  
18 burden of proof placed on the government to prove defendant guilty  
19 beyond a reasonable doubt.

20 e. The right to confront and cross-examine witnesses  
21 against defendant.

22 f. The right to testify and to present evidence in  
23 opposition to the charges, including the right to compel the  
24 attendance of witnesses to testify.

25 g. The right not to be compelled to testify, and, if  
26 defendant chose not to testify or present evidence, to have that  
27 choice not be used against defendant.

1 h. Any and all rights to pursue any affirmative defenses,  
2 Fourth Amendment or Fifth Amendment claims, and other pretrial  
3 motions that could be filed.

WAIVER OF APPEAL OF CONVICTION

5       25. Defendant understands that, with the exception of an appeal  
6 based on a claim that defendant's guilty pleas were involuntary, by  
7 pleading guilty defendant is waiving and giving up any right to  
8 appeal defendant's convictions on the offenses to which defendant is  
9 pleading guilty.

LIMITED MUTUAL WAIVER OF APPEAL OF SENTENCE

11       26. Defendant agrees that, provided the Court imposes a total  
12 term of imprisonment on all counts of conviction of no more than 78  
13 months, defendant gives up the right to appeal all of the following:  
14 (a) the procedures and calculations used to determine and impose any  
15 portion of the sentence; (b) the term of imprisonment imposed by the  
16 Court; (c) the fine imposed by the court, provided it is within the  
17 statutory maximum; (d) the amount and terms of any restitution order,  
18 provided it requires payment of no more than \$1,538,771.12; (e) the  
19 term of probation or supervised release imposed by the Court,  
20 provided it is within the statutory maximum; and (f) any of the  
21 following conditions of probation or supervised release imposed by  
22 the Court: the conditions set forth in General Orders 318, 01-05,  
23 and/or 05-02 of this Court; the drug testing conditions mandated by  
24 18 U.S.C. §§ 3563(a)(5) and 3583(d); and the alcohol and drug use  
25 conditions authorized by 18 U.S.C. § 3563(b)(7).

26        27. The USAO agrees that, provided (a) all portions of the  
27 sentence are at or below the statutory maximum specified above and  
28 (b) the Court imposes a term of imprisonment of no less than 63

1 months, the USAO gives up its right to appeal any portion of the  
2 sentence, with the exception that the USAO reserves the right to  
3 appeal the following: (a) the amount of restitution ordered if that  
4 amount is less than \$1,538,771.12.

5 RESULT OF WITHDRAWAL OF GUILTY PLEA

6 28. Defendant agrees that if, after entering guilty pleas  
7 pursuant to this agreement, defendant seeks to withdraw and succeeds  
8 in withdrawing defendant's guilty pleas on any basis other than a  
9 claim and finding that entry into this plea agreement was  
10 involuntary, then (a) the USAO will be relieved of all of its  
11 obligations under this agreement; and (b) should the USAO choose to  
12 pursue any charge or any civil, administrative, or regulatory action  
13 that was either dismissed or not filed as a result of this agreement,  
14 then (i) any applicable statute of limitations will be tolled between  
15 the date of defendant's signing of this agreement and the filing  
16 commencing any such action; and (ii) defendant waives and gives up  
17 all defenses based on the statute of limitations, any claim of pre-  
18 indictment delay, or any speedy trial claim with respect to any such  
19 action, except to the extent that such defenses existed as of the  
20 date of defendant's signing this agreement.

21 EFFECTIVE DATE OF AGREEMENT

22 29. This agreement is effective upon signature and execution of  
23 all required certifications by defendant, defendant's counsel, and an  
24 Assistant United States Attorney.

25 BREACH OF AGREEMENT

26 30. Defendant agrees that if defendant, at any time after the  
27 signature of this agreement and execution of all required  
28 certifications by defendant, defendant's counsel, and an Assistant

1 United States Attorney, knowingly violates or fails to perform any of  
2 defendant's obligations under this agreement ("a breach"), the USAO  
3 may declare this agreement breached. All of defendant's obligations  
4 are material, a single breach of this agreement is sufficient for the  
5 USAO to declare a breach, and defendant shall not be deemed to have  
6 cured a breach without the express agreement of the USAO in writing.  
7 If the USAO declares this agreement breached, and the Court finds  
8 such a breach to have occurred, then: (a) if defendant has previously  
9 entered guilty pleas pursuant to this agreement, defendant will not  
10 be able to withdraw the guilty pleas, and (b) the USAO will be  
11 relieved of all its obligations under this agreement.

12       31. Following the Court's finding of a knowing breach of this  
13 agreement by defendant, should the USAO choose to pursue any charge  
14 or any civil, administrative, or regulatory action that was either  
15 dismissed or not filed as a result of this agreement, then:

16           a. Defendant agrees that any applicable statute of  
17 limitations is tolled between the date of defendant's signing of this  
18 agreement and the filing commencing any such action.

19           b. Defendant waives and gives up all defenses based on  
20 the statute of limitations, any claim of pre-indictment delay, or any  
21 speedy trial claim with respect to any such action, except to the  
22 extent that such defenses existed as of the date of defendant's  
23 signing this agreement.

24           c. Defendant agrees that: (i) any statements made by  
25 defendant, under oath, at the guilty plea hearing (if such a hearing  
26 occurred prior to the breach); (ii) the agreed to factual basis  
27 statement in this agreement; and (iii) any evidence derived from such  
28 statements, shall be admissible against defendant in any such action

1 against defendant, and defendant waives and gives up any claim under  
2 the United States Constitution, any statute, Rule 410 of the Federal  
3 Rules of Evidence, Rule 11(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal  
4 Procedure, or any other federal rule, that the statements or any  
5 evidence derived from the statements should be suppressed or are  
6 inadmissible.

7 COURT AND PROBATION OFFICE NOT PARTIES

8       32. Defendant understands that the Court and the United States  
9 Probation Office are not parties to this agreement and need not  
10 accept any of the USAO's sentencing recommendations or the parties'  
11 agreements to facts or sentencing factors.

12       33. Defendant understands that both defendant and the USAO are  
13 free to: (a) supplement the facts by supplying relevant information  
14 to the United States Probation Office and the Court, (b) correct any  
15 and all factual misstatements relating to the Court's Sentencing  
16 Guidelines calculations and determination of sentence, and (c) argue  
17 on appeal and collateral review that the Court's Sentencing  
18 Guidelines calculations and the sentence it chooses to impose are not  
19 error, although each party agrees to maintain its view that the  
20 calculations in paragraph 22 are consistent with the facts of this  
21 case. While this paragraph permits both the USAO and defendant to  
22 submit full and complete factual information to the United States  
23 Probation Office and the Court, even if that factual information may  
24 be viewed as inconsistent with the facts agreed to in this agreement,  
25 this paragraph does not affect defendant's and the USAO's obligations  
26 not to contest the facts agreed to in this agreement.

27       34. Defendant understands that even if the Court ignores any  
28 sentencing recommendation, finds facts or reaches conclusions

1 different from those agreed to, and/or imposes any sentence up to the  
2 maximum established by statute, defendant cannot, for that reason,  
3 withdraw defendant's guilty pleas, and defendant will remain bound to  
4 fulfill all defendant's obligations under this agreement. Defendant  
5 understands that no one -- not the prosecutor, defendant's attorney,  
6 or the Court -- can make a binding prediction or promise regarding  
7 the sentence defendant will receive, except that it will be within  
8 the statutory maximum.

NO ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS

10       35. Defendant understands that, except as set forth herein,  
11 there are no promises, understandings, or agreements between the USAO  
12 and defendant or defendant's attorney, and that no additional  
13 promise, understanding, or agreement may be entered into unless in a  
14 writing signed by all parties or on the record in court.

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1                   PLEA AGREEMENT PART OF THE GUILTY PLEA HEARING

2                 36. The parties agree that this agreement will be considered  
3 part of the record of defendant's guilty plea hearing as if the  
4 entire agreement had been read into the record of the proceeding.

5                 AGREED AND ACCEPTED

6                 UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
7                 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF  
8                 CALIFORNIA

9                 SANDRA R. BROWN  
10                 United States Attorney

11                 SCOTT D. TENLEY  
12                 Assistant United States Attorney

13                 Elizabeth Jane Mulder  
14                 ELIZABETH JANE MULDER  
15                 Defendant

16                 KATHERINE T. CORRIGAN  
17                 Attorney for Defendant ELIZABETH  
18                 JANE MULDER

19                 5/17/17

20                 Date

21                 5/15/17

22                 Date

23                 5/15/17

24                 Date

25                   CERTIFICATION OF DEFENDANT

26                 I have read this agreement in its entirety. I have had enough  
27                 time to review and consider this agreement, and I have carefully and  
28                 thoroughly discussed every part of it with my attorney. I understand  
the terms of this agreement, and I voluntarily agree to those terms.  
I have discussed the evidence with my attorney, and my attorney has  
advised me of my rights, of possible pretrial motions that might be  
filed, of possible defenses that might be asserted either prior to or  
at trial, of the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a),  
of relevant Sentencing Guidelines provisions, and of the consequences  
of entering into this agreement. No promises, inducements, or

1 representations of any kind have been made to me other than those  
2 contained in this agreement. No one has threatened or forced me in  
3 any way to enter into this agreement. I am satisfied with the  
4 representation of my attorney in this matter, and I am pleading  
5 guilty because I am guilty of the charges and wish to take advantage  
6 of the promises set forth in this agreement, and not for any other  
7 reason.

8 Elizabeth Jane Mulder  
9 ELIZABETH JANE MULDER  
Defendant

5/15/17

Date

10  
11 CERTIFICATION OF DEFENDANT'S ATTORNEY

12 I am Elizabeth Jane Mulder's attorney. I have carefully and  
13 thoroughly discussed every part of this agreement with my client.  
14 Further, I have fully advised my client of her rights, of possible  
15 pretrial motions that might be filed, of possible defenses that might  
16 be asserted either prior to or at trial, of the sentencing factors  
17 set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), of relevant Sentencing Guidelines  
18 provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this agreement.  
19 To my knowledge: no promises, inducements, or representations of any  
20 kind have been made to my client other than those contained in this  
21 agreement; no one has threatened or forced my client in any way to  
22 enter into this agreement; my client's decision to enter into this  
23 agreement is an informed and voluntary one; and the factual basis set  
24 forth in this agreement is sufficient to support my client's entry of  
25 guilty pleas pursuant to this agreement.

26 ~~KATHERINE T. CORRIGAN~~  
27 Attorney for Defendant ELIZABETH  
28 JANE MULDER

5/15/17

Date

KC 5/15/17  
EM 5/15/17

# **Exhibit A**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SOUTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

No. SA CR 17-

Plaintiff,

I N F O R M A T I O N

v.

[18 U.S.C. § 1343: Wire Fraud; 26  
U.S.C. § 7206(1): Making and  
Subscribing to a False Tax Return]

ELIZABETH JANE MULDER,  
aka "Lizzie,"

Defendant.

The United States Attorney charges:

COUNT ONE

[18 U.S.C. § 1343]

A. INTRODUCTORY ALLEGATIONS

At all times relevant to this Information:

1. Kurtz-Ahlers & Associates ("K-A & Assoc.") was a company located in San Juan Capistrano, California, that provided marketing, consulting, and booking services for luxury hotels, resorts, and yachts.

2. "J.K.," founder and chief executive officer of K-A & Assoc., held exclusive authority to authorize expenditures on behalf

1 of K-A & Assoc., including as the only authorized signatory to K-A &  
2 Assoc. bank checks.

3       3. Defendant ELIZABETH JANE MULDER, also known as "Lizzie"  
4 ("MULDER") owned and operated Mulder Financial Consulting ("Mulder  
5 Financial"), a financial services company that provided bookkeeping  
6 services.

7       4. Defendant MULDER controlled a Bank of America bank account  
8 ending in 1906, which was held in the name of Mulder Financial, and a  
9 Bank of America account ending in 8120, which was held in the name of  
10 Mulder Financial and Consulting, d/b/a Income Tax Payments (the  
11 "Income Tax Payments account").

12       5. Beginning in or around November 2008, K-A & Assoc. hired  
13 defendant MULDER to provide part-time bookkeeping services at the  
14 rate of \$700 per month. In her capacity as a part-time bookkeeper  
15 for K-A & Assoc., defendant MULDER was not authorized to sign checks  
16 on behalf of K-A & Assoc., or to otherwise cause the payment or  
17 transfer of K-A & Assoc. money without authorization from J.K.

18       B. THE SCHEME TO DEFRAUD

19       6. Beginning in or around December 2011 and continuing to in  
20 or around May 2016, in Orange County, within the Central District of  
21 California, and elsewhere, defendant MULDER, knowingly and with the  
22 intent to defraud, devised, participated in, and executed a scheme to  
23 defraud others, as to material matters, and to obtain money and  
24 property from K-A & Assoc., by means of material false and fraudulent  
25 pretenses, representations, and promises, and the concealment of  
26 material facts.

27       //

28       //

1 C. MEANS TO ACCOMPLISH THE FRAUDULENT SCHEME

2       7. In carrying out the fraudulent scheme, defendant MULDER,  
3 engaged in and caused others to engage in fraudulent and deceptive  
4 acts, practices, and devices, including, but not limited to, the  
5 following:

6           a. Defendant MULDER told J.K. to endorse checks drawn  
7 upon K-A & Assoc.'s account made payable to "Income Tax Payments" and  
8 represented that the funds would be used to satisfy K-A & Assoc.'s  
9 outstanding federal, state, and local tax obligations.

10          b. Defendant MULDER deposited the checks into the "Income  
11 Tax Payments" account and used the funds for defendant MULDER's  
12 personal expenses.

13           c. Defendant MULDER made unauthorized transfers of money  
14 from K-A & Assoc.'s bank account to bank accounts under defendant  
15 MULDER's control, by unauthorized wire transfer and forged check.

16           d. When J.K. discovered unauthorized transfers from K-A &  
17 Assoc.'s accounts, defendant MULDER attempted to conceal the fraud by  
18 telling J.K. that the unauthorized wire transfers were caused by  
19 banking errors, when in truth, as defendant MULDER well knew,  
20 defendant MULDER intentionally caused the transfers to accounts under  
21 her control and used the funds for personal purposes.

22        8. By devising and executing the fraudulent scheme, defendant  
23 MULDER caused K-A & Assoc. to make payments and transfers of  
24 approximately \$777,604.73 from K-A & Assoc.'s account to accounts  
25 under defendant MULDER's control, which defendant MULDER used for  
26 personal expenses including a Laguna Beach, California rental home,  
27 cosmetic surgery, personal vacations, living expenses, horse rentals,  
28 and the purchase of high-end horse equipment.

1 C. ITEM WIRED

2 9. On or about August 22, 2014, within the Central District of  
3 California, and elsewhere, for the purpose of executing the scheme to  
4 defraud, defendant MULDER, transmitted, and caused the transmission  
5 of a wire communication through a Bank of America server in Richmond,  
6 Virginia effectuating a transfer of \$5,000 from a California Bank of  
7 America account ending in -x6285 to a California Bank of America  
8 account ending in -x8120.

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1 COUNT TWO

2 [26 U.S.C. 7206(1)]

3 On or about May 21, 2016, within the Central District of  
4 California, and elsewhere, defendant ELIZABETH JANE MULDER, also  
5 known as "Lizzie" ("MULDER"), a resident of Laguna Beach, California,  
6 willfully made and subscribed to a false United States Individual  
7 Income Tax Return, Form 1040, for the calendar year 2015, which was  
8 verified by written declaration that it was made under the penalty of  
9 perjury, which was filed with the Internal Revenue Service on or  
10 around May 22, 2016, and which defendant MULDER did not believe to be  
11 true and correct as to every material matter, in that defendant  
12 MULDER falsely reported, on line 22 of such form 1040, that the joint  
13 total income for her and her spouse for calendar year 2015 was  
14 \$76,920, when, in truth and in fact, as defendant MULDER then well  
15 knew and believed, defendant's joint total income for the calendar  
16 year 2015 was substantially higher.

17 SANDRA R. BROWN  
18 Acting United States Attorney

19  
20 LAWRENCE S. MIDDLETON  
21 Assistant United States Attorney  
Chief, Criminal Division

22 DENNISE D. WILLETT  
23 Assistant United States Attorney  
Chief, Santa Ana Branch Office

24 JOSEPH T. MCNALLY  
25 Assistant United States Attorney  
Deputy Chief, Santa Ana Branch  
Office

26 SCOTT D. TENLEY  
27 Assistant United States Attorney  
Santa Ana Branch Office